

MARVEL
COMICS

GAMBIT

MAY
#4

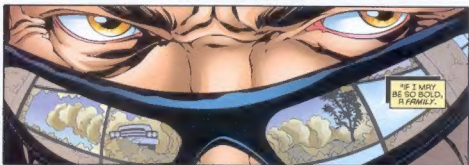
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THIEF vs
VAMPIRE
HUNTER

'NUFF SAID!



NO!

Stan Lee Presents:
A TALE OF GAMBIT

OLD WOUNDS, FRESH BLOOD!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Fabian Nicieza & Steve Skroce
writer • storytellers • penciler

Rob Hunter, Hanna & Koblish
inks

Shannon Blanchard
colors

Richard Starkings & Comcraft's Jason & Troy letters • Mark Powers editor • Bob Harras chief





VAMPIRE
HUNTER,
SPEAKS TO
WHO, BUT
NOT TO THE
WHY.

WELL, HE LOST HIS
MOTHER, HIS LIFE
AND HIS HOPE TO
THE BLOOD-
SUCKING VERMIN.

SO HE'S GOT THIS
THING ABOUT
KEEPING VAMPIRES
FROM RUINING
ANYONE ELSE'S
LIFE --

-- OR MAKING
THEM PAY IF
THEY ALREADY
HAVE.

THIS ONE, WHO HAS
BEEN PLAGUING THE
STREETS OF NEW
ORLEANS, FALLS
UNDER BOTH THOSE
CATEGORIES.



I WON'T
LET
YOU TAKE
ME!

YOU
DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE.



BUT
YOU
DO!



RATHER
PREDICTABLE.
YOU CARE TOO
MUCH FOR THE
CATTLE.



YOU GET
AWAY, BUT YOU
DON'T WIN.

NOT THIS
BOY... NOT
TONIGHT.

BUT WHY
SO MANY OTHERS
OVER THE LAST
TWO WEEKS?

MOBILE, LOUISIANA.

THE HOUSE WAS OVERLOOKED LAKE POINT-CHARTRAIN FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

PRIME REAL ESTATE, BUT THE OWNER REFUSES TO SELL.

SHE WATCHED HER DADDY BUILD IT WITH SWEAT AND SOUL. SHE'S NOT ABOUT TO GIVE IT UP...

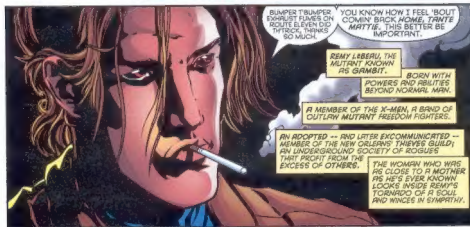


NOT SO QUIET I DON'T KNOW YA HERE, BOY. YA STUCK 'TWEEN OLD PAIN AN' NEW PROBLEMS, REMY.

STORY OF MY LIFE. WHY'D YOU ASK ME T'MEET YOU HERE, 'STEAD OF NAWLIN'?



GET YOU T'SMELL DE AIR, REMY. DO YOU SOME GOOD.



BUMPER T'BUMPER EXHAUST FLAMES ON ROUTE ELEVEN DID THTTRICK, THANKS SO MUCH.

YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL 'BOUT COMIN' BACK HOME, TANTE MATTIE. THIS BETTER BE IMPORTANT.

REMY LEBEAU, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS GAMBIT.

BORN WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES BEYOND NORMAL MAN.

A MEMBER OF THE X-MEN, A BAND OF OUTLAW MUTANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

AN ADOPTED -- AND LATER EXCOMMUNICATED -- MEMBER OF THE NEW ORLEANS THIEVES GUILD, AN UNDERGROUND SOCIETY OF ROGUES THAT PROFIT FROM THE EXCESS OF OTHERS.

THE WOMAN WHO WAS AS CLOSE TO A MOTHER AS HE'S EVER KNOWN LOOKS INSIDE REMY'S TORNADO OF A SOUL AND WINCES IN SYMPATHY.



HAD
A DREAM.
SOMEONE WAS
LOOKIN' FOR
YOU.
NAME A'
FONTANELLE.

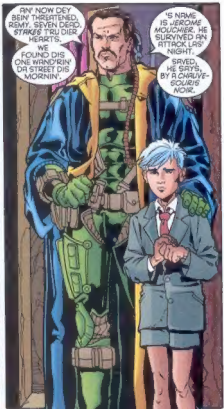
TANTE MATTIE IS A
CRULIN TRAITHEUR —
A MYSTIC AND HEALER.



THAT
LADY? DON'
KNOW
HER.

AS FOR TH'
ANTIQUARY...
HE BEEN MUSEUM'
FOR YEARS,
NOW?

BUT HIS
COLLECTION —
BOTH PEOPLE AN'
TINGS — KEEPS
ON KEEPIN'
ON.

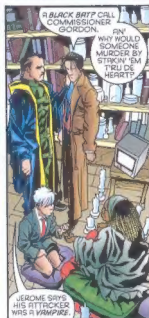


AN' NOW DEY
BEIN' THREATENED.
REMY, SEVEN DEAD.
STAKE'S TRU DIER
HEARTS.

WE
FOUND DIS
ONE WAND'IN'
DA STREET DIS
MORNIN'.

'S NAME
IS JEROME
MOUCHIER. HE
SURVIVED AN
ATTACK LAS'
NIGHT.

SAVED,
HE SAYS,
BY A CHALVE-
SOURIS
NOIR.



A BLACK BAT? CALL
COMMISSIONER
GORDON.

AN'
WHY WOULD
SOMEONE
MURDER BY
STAKIN' 'EM
TRU DE
HEART?

JEROME SAYS
HIS ATTACKER
WAS A VAMPIRE.

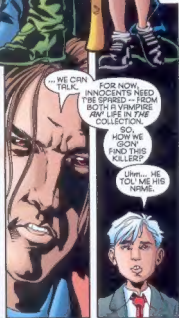


THOUGHT OF
PUBLICITY ANNE
DOT 'SOURCES'
'EM OUTTA DE
BIG EASY.

YOUR
ACCENT ALWAYS
COMES BACK WHEN
YOU COME HOME.

EVEN
UNDER SUCH
CIRCUMSTANCES,
IT'S GOOD T'SEE
YOU...
... SON.

MAYBE LATER...
IT WILL BE, FATHER.
MAYBE LATER...



... WE CAN
TALK.

FOR NOW,
INNOCENTS NEED
TBE SPARED — FROM
BOTH A VAMPIRE
AN' LIFE IN THE
COLLECTION.

SO,
HOW WE
GON'
FIND THIS
KILLER?

Uhm... HE
TOL' ME HIS
NAME.





FRANCO'S
CHICAULT?

A FAILED
ASSASSIN, AT BEST.
HIS HEART WAS
NOT IN IT.

SO WHY
WOULD MINISTERS
TOME AND HOARD OF THE
ANTIQUARY'S TIEF CLAN BE
INQUIRIN' 'BOUT A DEAD
MEMBER OF CLAN
BOURDREUX?



MISTRESS BELLA
DONNA... CHICAULT
IS NOT DEAD...

... WELL, HE
IS, BUT HE IS
NOT.

HE IS
UNDEAD.



AND WHY
SHOULD DAT BE
A CONCERN OF DE
ASSASSIN'S
GUILD?



*CHICAULT WAS ALWAYS
MORE INTERESTED IN DE
HISTORY OF DE GUILD DEN
IN ITS KILLING ARTS.



"HE SAID KNOWIN' DE WHYS
OF ASSASSINATION WAS MORE
IMPORTANT DEN DE HOW'S.



"WONDER IF HE STILL FELT
DAT WAY AS HIS THROAT
WAS GETTIN' SLIT?"



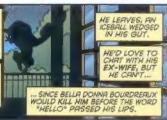
Um...
PUNCTURED,
ACTUALLY.

YOUR ASSASSIN WAS KILLED
BY VAMPIRES -- AND NOW
HE'S DECIMATING
OUR CLAN.

SHE LAUGHS.

REMY ALWAYS
LOVED HER
LAUGH. EQUAL
PARTS LUST FOR
LIFE AND THREAT
OF DANGER.

HE GOT WHAT
HE CAME FOR.
BEL AND HER
FAMILY AREN'T
INVOLVED.



HE LEAVES, AN
ICEBALL WEDGED
IN HIS GUT.

HE'D LOVE TO
CHAT WITH HIS
EX-WIFE, BUT
HE CAN'T...

... SINCE BELLA DONNA BOURDREUX
WOULD KILL HIM BEFORE THE WORD
"HELLO" PASSED HIS LIPS.

INTERLUDE 1

ALMAGORDO,
NEW MEXICO

HUMPH, EVEN
IN A DREAM, IT'S
A NIGHTMARE!

AY, THERE YOU ARE. LOVE THOSE CLOTHES. HOW VERY "LEAVE IT TO BEAVER."

I CAN'T HEAR OVER THE ROAR OF MY WIT. WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING?

THIS WAY, CHARLEY!

WHAT DID YOU SEE, CARTER?

I DUNNO -- BUT IT WAS SCARY -- AN' I HEARD --

-- HEY -- WATMINANT -- MY REFLEKSHUN --

-- I'M OLD -- ALMAGORDO RESEARCH FACILITY? THIS IS -- A DREAM?

YUPPERS. WHO --?

CALL ME FONTANELLE. ALL MY PATIENTS DO.

PATIENTS? ARE YOU A DOCTOR HERE AT THE PRISON?

NO, CARTER RYKINS, I AM A SURGEON OF THE MIND... LOOKING FOR A CANCEROUS MEMORY...

YOU SAW SOMETHING, CARTER -- YOU AND LITTLE CHARLES XAVIER.

WHAT WAS IT? WHO WAS IT?

LET ME UNLOCK THAT BURIED MEMORY... YES... WHISPER IT TO ME...

... SHE SAID THE WORDS...

... BLACK WOMB...

... BLACK WOMB...

END INTERLUDE 1

INTERLUDE 2

OKAY,
THE TOYS ARE
COOL.
WE'LL
GIVE YOU THAT
MUCH.

...UNITED STATES
SPECIAL AGENT CARL
DENTI BY DAY --

-- MUTANT-HUNTING,
ALISH-ARMORED
X-CUTIONER
BY NIGHT!

TOYS, MR.
FARLEY?

IF FAO SCHWARZ
HAD SOME OF THAT
ALIEN ARMAMENT --



--CHRISTMAS WOULD
BE MORE FUN FOR
THE PENTAGON!

YOU ARE GETTING
PROFICIENT IN USE
OF THE EQUIPMENT.

I THINK
WE'RE
READY.

BUT THE TARGET
IS CUNNING AS
A FOX.

THE EASIEST WAY
TO CATCH A FOX
IS NOT TO CHASE
IT, BUT TO LURE
IT INTO A TRAP.

COSMO
STEPHANOPOLOUS.

MARIA
ELLENTHORPE.

JACK
FARLEY.

FIRED AS THE ELITE SECURITY
FORCE OF RESEARCH FIRM
ELYSIAN ENTERPRISES
AFTER ALLOWING GAMBIT
TO HUMILIATE THEM --

--HIRED BY THE MAN WHO
FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THAT FAILURE...

AND THE BAIT TO
LURE GAMBIT WILL
BE HIS FELLOW
X-MAN...

ROGUE!

END INTERLUDE 2

21 SOME POINT NEW ORLEANS WAS SO INFESTED WITH VAMPIRES THAT THEY COULD'VE BEEN PRACTICALLY DECLARED AN OFFICIAL MINORITY

THEY HAD TURNED THE LOCAL CEMETERIES INTO A BEEHIVE NETWORK OF HIDING PLACES

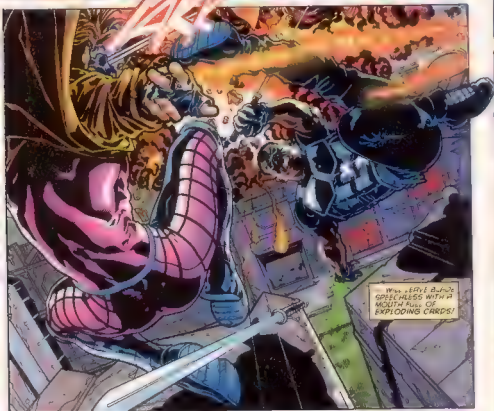
REMY'S PLAN WAS SIMPLE - SEARCH AND FIND CHICAUT

THE COMPROMISE BEING THAT NOW THE LUNCH AND BREAKFAST MEALS WERE VAMPIRES

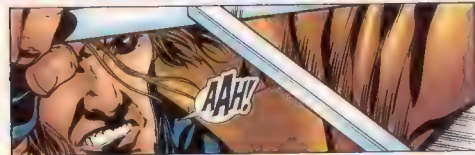
MMH SCUSE ME HERE...
SWEAR I STEP ON ONE JOKE SO TEL ME

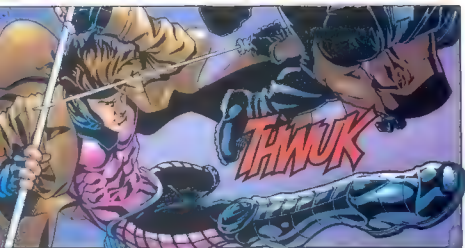


AND A BURGE OF
BIOKINETIC ENERGY
ACTIVATING HIS MUTANT
ABILITY TO CHARGE THE
ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF
INORGANIC MATTER.



WHY LEAVE BUNO
SPEECHLESS WITH A
MOUTH FULL OF
EXPLODING CARDS?





THE ANTIQUARY'S MUSEUM IT'S NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

IT'S WHERE HIS COLLECTION'S KEPT

REMY WAS PART OF THAT COLLECTION UNTIL JERRY AND LEBEAU RESCUED HIM WHEN HE WAS A T.T.E. MORE THAN A NEWBORN

THE STATION IS SIMPLE GENTLEMEN

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WE HAVE THE SOLUTION

AND WHAT PRICE WOULD LEBEAU FOR YOUR SERVICES

WE KNOW THAT CLAN LEBEAU HAS LONG HELD THE ANTIQUARY'S IN A CONTINGENCY BUT WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE THIEVES

ALWAYS BE SOME ROTTEN APPLES ON A TREE MINUTE

CHOCOLAT'S DECIDING YOUR CLAN'S FUTURE TO SAVE ANTIQUARY'S TOMORROW

WE WANT FULL ACCESS TO HIS YESTERDAYS

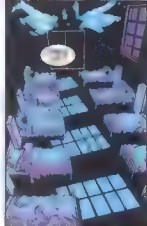
YOU SEEK AUDIENCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD KINGDOM

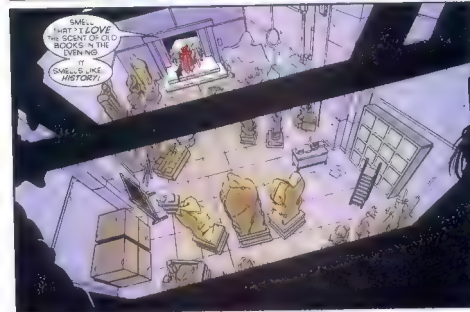
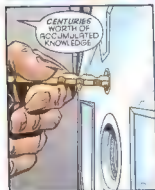
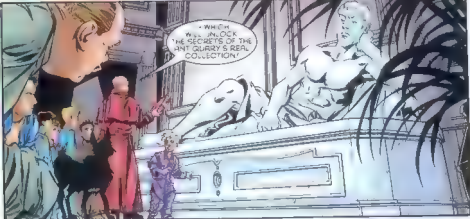
WE CANNOT! THE POWER YOU MIGHT GAIN FROM SUCH INSIGHT IS -- NO! IT IS SIMPLY DEMANDING TOO MUCH

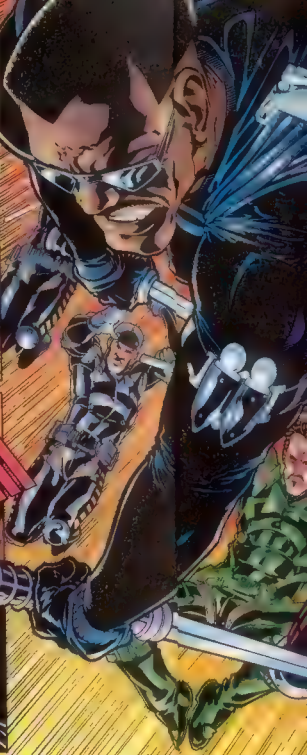
PERHAPS A COMPROMISE THEN

I PRAY WE MADE A WISE DECISION TIME

AS I













NOT
WHEN I
AM SO
CLOSE!



BELIEVE ME, I
KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE
THAVE ALL THE
ANSWERS IN THE
PALM OF YOUR
HAND --

-- ONLY
TO WATCH
THEM SLIP
AWAY.

GOT
SOME GOOD
ADVICE WHEN THAT
HAPPENED TO ME,
LEAVE ME PRIS IT
ALONG --

-- TOUGH
LUCK!



EK?

YOU
MISSED?

SLASH





